

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A composite superconducting tape ~~characterised~~ characterized by at least one constituent superconducting tape and at least one outer layer of metal tape overlying and bonded to one of the exposed major faces thereof with the ~~provisio~~ provision that if there are two such metal tapes they differ in a common strength property.

Claim 2 (original) A tape according to claim 1 comprising a multiplicity of stacked and bonded constituent superconducting tapes.

Claim 3 (original) A tape according to claim 1 comprising a multiplicity of stacked and diffusion-bonded superconducting tapes and in which all elongate components extend longitudinally.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A composite superconducting tape according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein there are two metal tapes of different compositions.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A superconducting tape according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein there are two metal tapes of the same composition but different thickness.

Claim 6 (original): A composite superconducting tape according to claim 2 in which the constituent superconducting tapes are stacked in at least two parallel stacks.

Claim 7 (original): A composite superconducting tape substantially as described with reference to the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.